

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 CARACA 10520 111938Z

72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /078 W
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R 111532Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2041

UNCLAS CARACAS 10520

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, VE, CU
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - LAV PLANS REGARDING CUBA SERVICE

REF: 10 FAM 521.B

1. DURING RECENT INFORMAL CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT OF LINEA AEROPOSTAL VENEZOLANA (LAV), GOVERNMENT-OWNED DOMESTIC AIRLINE WITH ROUTES TO TRINIDAD, CURACAO AND ARUBA, STATED THAT HIS AIRLINE IS THINKING ABOUT OCCASIONAL CHARTER FLIGHTS CARACAS-HAVANA IF VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT REESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

2. AIRLINE PRESIDENT FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC SINCE HE DOES NOT EXPECT CUBANS TO BE ABLE TO COME TO VENEZUELA ON VACATION. HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT GOVERNMENT MIGHT ORDER HIS AIRLINE TO COMMENCE SCHEDULED SERVICE, WHICH WOULD BE EVEN LESS PROFITABLE, BUT FELT THAT IF ANY AIRLINE MUST OFFER THIS SERVICE, IT SHOULD BE HIS AS GOVERNMENT-OWNED CARRIER.

3. LAV HAS MADE SEVERAL SPECIAL FLIGHTS TO CUBA IN RECENT MONTHS, AS HAS VIASA, MOSTLY FOR PURPOSE OF TRANSPORTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REFUGEES FROM VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO, CHILE.

MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, AIRLINES, AIR SCHEDULES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA10520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731233/aaaaaxtq.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 10 FAM 521.B
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by williadtr>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - LAV PLANS REGARDING CUBA SERVICE
TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, VE, CU, LAV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005